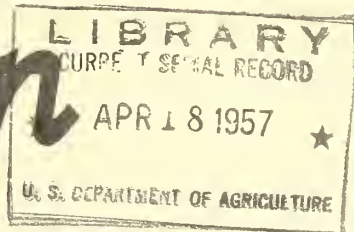


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Foreign



CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1957

VOLUME 74

NUMBER 15

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S.

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GREEK TOBACCO EXPORTS DOWN 9 PERCENT

Greek exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1956, totaling 110.5 million pounds, were 9 percent below the 1955 record high of 121.0 million. Shipments to West Germany, the principal market, were 6.6 million pounds below the 1955 level of 41.5 million. Exports to the United States, France, Italy, Egypt, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands were also substantially smaller than in 1955. Countries increasing their takings of Greek leaf included Belgium, Finland, Portugal, Austria, and Sweden.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Greece, exports by country
of destination, 1954-56

Country of destination	1954	1955	1956 <u>1/</u>
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United States.....	14,306	22,659	20,847
West Germany.....	37,946	41,508	34,931
East Germany.....	6,448	2,504	1,691
Soviet Union.....	8,214	1,426	4,256
Hungary.....	2,355	3,940	567
Poland.....	747	--	66
Rumania.....	--	22	20
Czechoslovakia.....	--	--	1,532
Communist China.....	--	--	882
United Kingdom.....	2,476	3,132	1,183
Austria.....	6,779	5,615	9,607
Belgium.....	924	3,325	4,743
France.....	10,624	13,333	9,315
Switzerland.....	2,862	3,567	2,686
Italy.....	9,493	7,709	6,082
Netherlands.....	311	1,453	381
Sweden.....	1,045	359	1,582
Portugal.....	1,237	1,263	1,864
Finland.....	4,202	2,679	4,138
Egypt.....	2,829	3,633	2,036
Others.....	2,822	2,835	2,041
Total.....	115,620	120,962	110,450

1/ Preliminary.

Total consignments to the Soviet Union, Communist China, and Eastern European countries, totaling 9.0 million pounds, were 1.1 million pounds above the 1955 level of 7.9 million but only about one-half as large as the 1954 total of 17.8 million. All these countries, except Hungary, stepped up their takings of Greek leaf. A recent agreement for 1957 with the Soviet Union provides for the sale of 14.3 million pounds of Greek tobacco to that country, while another agreement with Communist China is under negotiation. It is probable that total exports to the above area during 1957 will exceed the 1954 figure.

AUSTRALIAN TOBACCO IMPORTS DECLINE SHARPLY

Australia's imports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1956 totaled 36.5 million pounds, 15.2 million below the 1955 record high of 51.7 million. The decline in imports reflects the reduction in the issuances of import licenses to manufacturers following import restrictions imposed during late 1955 and early 1956. The restrictions were based on actual requirements, levels of stocks, and foreign exchange availabilities.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Australia, imports by country of origin, 1954-56

Country of origin	1954	1955	1956
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United States.....	24,758	35,550	26,200
Rhodesia and Nyasaland.....	10,658	12,094	8,133
Canada.....	2,325	2,881	1,871
India.....	722	186	<u>1/</u>
Indonesia.....	83	105	8
Union of South Africa.....	129	279	21
Greece and Turkey.....	25	248	167
Other.....	58	366	116
Total.....	38,758	51,709	36,516

1/ Less than 500 pounds.

Source: Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

Leaf takings from all principal sources were substantially below the 1955 levels. The United States continued to be the major source, supplying 72 percent of the total compared with 69 percent in 1955 and 64 percent in 1954. Takings from Canada and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland were each about one-third lower than 1955. Combined imports of Greek and Turkish leaf declined from 248,000 pounds in 1955 to 167,000 pounds in 1956. Imports of cigar leaf, mainly from Cuba, Brazil, and Indonesia, were also down sharply from a year ago.

NEW ZEALAND'S 1956-57 TOBACCO
CROP DOWN SLIGHTLY

New Zealand's 1956-57 tobacco crop is placed at 4.4 million pounds compared with the 1955-56 crop of 4.7 million, according to British trade sources. The average yield per acre of 1,509 pounds established a new record high - 172 pounds more than in the previous season.

The basic average price received by growers for the 1955-56 flue-cured crop was 49.0 pence (57.2 U.S. cents) per pound. For the last 3 years, growers have expressed dissatisfaction with the method of price fixation by the Price Tribunal. Prices received have been reportedly below the Department of Agriculture's cost figures, and the Tobacco Board has pressed for an additional payment of 6 pence (7.0 U. S. cents) per pound above the costs of production determined by the Department of Agriculture. The minimum price at which leaf tobacco may be sold has been 26 pence (30.3 U. S. cents) per pound since April 1953.

SWISS IMPORT MORE CIGARETTE
LEAF DURING 1956

Duty-paid imports of unmanufactured tobacco into Switzerland indicate that factory usings of cigarette leaf increased during 1956 while usings for other products declined slightly.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Switzerland, imports for manufacture
into specific products, 1955 and 1956

Product	:		:		:		:	1956
	:		:		:		:	
	:	1,000	:	1,000	:	1,000	:	1,000
	:	pounds	:	dollars	:	pounds	:	dollars
Cigars.....	:	8,311	:	5,385	:	7,971	:	5,231
Pipe tobacco.....	:	2,024	:	673	:	1,947	:	642
Cigarettes and cigarette tobacco.....	:	16,364	:	11,714	:	16,726	:	12,202
Other.....	:	167	:	13	:	158	:	11
Total.....	:	26,866	:	17,785	:	26,802	:	18,086

Source: Statistique Mensuelle, du Commerce Extérieur de La Suisse,
Decembre 1956.

The major suppliers of cigar and pipe tobaccos were the United States, Italy, Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and the Philippine Republic. Cigarette tobaccos were primarily supplied by the United States, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Brazil, and France.

RHODESIAN TOBACCO MISSION TO ENCOURAGE SALES TO NEW ZEALAND

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland are reported to be sending a government mission to Australia and New Zealand to study the tobacco markets and then return through the Far East. New Zealand imports tobacco for blending with domestic leaf from the United States despite a foreign exchange problem. An earlier Rhodesian tobacco mission to New Zealand was unsuccessful due to the inability of Rhodesian leaf to supply the flavor and aroma for cigarettes that consumers desire.

ALGERIAN 1956 TOBACCO CROP DOWN SHARPLY

Algeria's 1956 tobacco harvest is reportedly placed at 15.9 million pounds compared with the 1955 harvest of 41.9 million. The drastic decline in production is attributed to terrorist activities in the Kabylie and Bone regions. The terrorists reportedly destroyed plantings in the fields and burned tobacco-drying sheds in the region served by the Tobacco Cooperative of Kabylie. Production in this area during 1956 amounted to only 1.5 million pounds compared with the 1955 harvest of 13.2 million. Unless more protection can be assured producers, the 1957 crop will probably be smaller than the 1956 crop.

AUSTRALIA PLANS NEW DAIRY STABILIZATION SCHEME

As the present Australian Dairy Stabilization Scheme will end July 30, 1957, discussions are now being held between the dairy industry and the Australian Government to formulate a new plan covering the years 1957-62.

Representatives of the dairy industry have suggested that a constant productivity factor replace the moving factor now used in calculating the annual adjustments of cost. The new method would vary income in direct relation to production. The industry also has asked that the owner-operator allowance used in calculating the cost of production be increased by \$224 per year, and that a subsidy be paid on the butter and cheese exported instead of being limited to 120 percent of domestic consumption. It has been suggested that the subsidy total about \$9 million and be paid out each year.

If this suggestion is adopted, it would commit the government to pay a fixed subsidy of \$9 million every year for the duration of the 5-year plan regardless of the quantities exported or the level of prices prevailing on the export market. This is in direct contrast with the stated government policy of reducing subsidies in general. The final plan adopted will probably resemble the one now in operation.

ECUADOR ENCOURAGES DOMESTIC DAIRY PRODUCTION

Ecuadoran dairy product importers are protesting the recently increased import duties, which now total the equivalent of 8.4 cents per pound for dried milk and 9 cents per pound for unmedicated evaporated and condensed milk, plus 10 percent ad valorem in each case. Through these almost prohibitive tariffs the government hopes to limit greatly the importation of dairy products and thereby create a more attractive price for home-produced milk as an incentive for Ecuadorans to enter the milk production industry.

During the 7 years 1950-56, Ecuador imported an average of more than 3 million pounds of dairy products annually, of which about 80 percent was powdered milk, coming mostly from the United States.

Although many private enterprises are importing better breeding stock and up-breeding the native Criollo cattle, the present daily per capita supply of domestically produced milk is only about 0.2 liter. Most of the producers are located around Quito, the capital city, where the milk supply is adequate. However, the coastal cities, especially Guayaquil, do not receive enough domestic milk, and the price of reconstituted milk in this area is about equal to the price of fresh milk in Quito.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT BACKS SUPPORT PRICE ON NONFAT DRY MILK.

The Canadian Minister of Agriculture recently announced in the House of Commons a government-backed support price on first-grade nonfat dry milk. The support is 14 cents per pound for roller process and 17 cents per pound for spray process on an f.o.b. basis for storage at Montreal, Toronto, and several other Canadian cities. All purchases will be subject to the terms and conditions specified by the Agricultural Prices Support Board. Previous price-support programs on nonfat dry milk were effective in 1949 and 1953.

EGYPT RESTRICTS DAIRY EXPORTS

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance and Economy, in its General Export Regulation, recently announced commodities and articles that would come under export control. Milk, butter, cooking butter, and all cheese except white cheese are prohibited from export. White cheese may be exported after receipt of a permit from the General Control Board for Export. No expiration date for the restrictions or controls has been announced.

Egypt's principal dairy exports are white cheese and melted butter. In 1955 exports of these products totaled 602,000 and 12,000 pounds, respectively.

IRELAND'S 1957 SKIM MILK OUTLOOK BRIGHT

Three creameries in Ireland will soon complete installations of equipment for spray-drying skim milk and begin operations, according to an article in the March 16 issue of the Irish Farmers' Journal. The article indicates that these plants will double their production during 1957.

Ireland's exports of skim milk powder increased from 459,200 pounds during 1955 to 4,267,200 pounds in 1956. The increase in value was even greater, as the price of skimmed-spray increased from 11.2 cents to 12 cents per pound, and roller-dried skim milk rose by the same amount to 11.4 cents per pound.

GHANA DAIRY IMPORTS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Preliminary trade information indicates that in 1956 Ghana (formerly the Gold Coast) continued a postwar trend of increased dairy imports. In spite of a slight decrease in condensed milk imports, total canned milk imports reached 10.3 million pounds. Evaporated milk imports rose from 7.6 million pounds in 1955 to 8.6 million pounds in 1956, while condensed milk imports dropped only slightly from 1.9 to 1.7 million pounds. The Netherlands was the principal supplier in both years.

Butter imports, supplied principally by New Zealand, rose from 529,000 pounds in 1955 to 657,000 pounds in 1956. Imports of dry milk, chiefly from the Netherlands, showed a 19-percent gain over 1955 and stood at 366,000 pounds. Cheese imports almost doubled those of 1955 and stood at 612,000 pounds, with the United States supplying 300,000 pounds. In 1955, Ghana did not import any United States cheese.

CHOCOLATE CRUMB SUPPLIES AT RECORD LEVEL IN U.K.

Total supplies of chocolate crumb (a cocoa-sugar-whole milk product used in the confectionery industry) reached a record level of 248.0 million pounds in the United Kingdom during 1956, about 23 percent above 1955. Of 1956 supplies, the United Kingdom's domestic production is estimated at 163.5 million pounds; in 1955, it was 127.7 million pounds.

Imports of chocolate crumb come almost entirely from Ireland, which in 1956 supplied 83.7 million pounds of a total import of 84.1 million pounds. In 1955, Ireland supplied 74.7 million pounds of a total import of 74.8 million pounds.

PERU MAY IMPORT RICE

Peru may need to import several thousand tons of rice in 1957 to meet normal consumption requirements. Prospects for a reduction in this year's rice crop, harvested principally from May through August, are due largely to the extreme shortage of water during the period of transplanting. With planting being exceptionally late, some of the crop may be lost unless weather is unusually favorable until harvest.

GUATEMALA'S WHEAT
IMPORTS INCREASING

Owing to relatively unfavorable land and climatic conditions for wheat growing in Guatemala, that country's fixed producer price of \$6.00 per quintal (\$1.63 per bushel) which mills are required to pay is unlikely to increase domestic production substantially as had been expected, and imports are expected to increase. This applies to both hard and soft wheats. The main reason for this trend is rising domestic wheat consumption.

The Guatemalan Government is encouraging the development of the domestic flour milling industry so that most of the country's flour requirements eventually will be milled locally. The increased import requirement, therefore, is being met by encouraging imports of wheat and not flour. On March 21 the government reduced the proportion of required purchases of domestic wheat per unit of wheat imported. The proportion was reduced from 50 units of domestic wheat per 100 units imported to 25 units. Imported flour must meet the following requirements: maximum moisture content, 14 percent; minimum protein content, 13.6 percent; maximum ash content 0.47 percent.

The flour import quotas have not been changed. Special foreign flour milled from soft wheat and used in making certain food pastes and special bakery items is not subject to import quotas; however, very little of this type of flour is imported.

C O R R E C T I O N

In the article entitled, "Improved Wheat Prospects in Western Europe Indicate Lower Import Needs in 1957-58," in Foreign Crops and Markets of April 1, 1957 (Vol. 74, No. 13), the quantities stated in the second paragraph should have been in millions of bushels (not thousands).

BRAZIL NUT MARKETING PROBLEMS INCREASED BY FLOODS

The Tocantins River, in the principal Brazil nut region of Para, has flooded the cities of Maraba and Tucurui where many Brazil nuts are stored. Substantial losses in nut stocks as well as warehouse buildings have been reported.

Prices, however, have not reacted to the flood damage. Current f.o.b. prices for April and May delivery of unshelled Brazils range from 10 to 14 cents per pound. In 1956, the seasonal range of prices was from 14 to 19 cents per pound.

TURKISH FILBERTS MOVING SLOWLY

Export movement of Turkish filberts continues slow, according to trade sources, despite the February 28 reduction in the official export price from 51.7 to 49.9 cents per pound, shelled. Present indications are that there will be a heavy carryover of 1956-crop Turkish filberts. Buyers in importing countries have, therefore, been restrained in purchasing at the official price. Purchases several cents below the official minimum have been made by means of switch deals.

AUSTRALIA ENCOURAGES MEAT ADVERTISING

The Australian Meat Board, according to the Minister of Primary Industry, has been authorized to promote the sale of meat overseas for about a year, and will be permitted to advertise. The meat trade is concerned over the drop in per-capita meat consumption in Australia to about 12 percent below the prewar level.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL SALES UP 14 PERCENT

Wool sales during the first 8 months of the season (July-February) were 910 million pounds compared with 800 million during the same period 1955-56. The value of wool sold totaled \$681 million, an increase of \$230 million over the previous season. The average price per pound during the corresponding periods was 75 cents and 56 cents, respectively, increase of 34 percent this season.

Exports of raw wool during July-January increased 7 percent, from 648 million pounds to 693 million pounds. The value of these exports increased from \$395 million to \$514 million. The rise in exports reflects substantially larger shipments to Japan, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Poland. Shipments to the United States and France continue below last season's levels.

At the beginning of April about 1.2 million bales of wool were available for disposal during the last 3 months of the season.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL
PRICES DECLINE

Wool prices declined slightly at auctions in Sydney and Melbourne during the week ending March 22. Compared with a year earlier prices ranged from 25 - 40 percent higher for combing wools and 10 - 15 percent higher for carding wools.

The offering at the Sydney sale was generally in good condition and of average to good length. Japan, the Continent and the United Kingdom dominated the buying.

WOOL, RAW: Australia, average costs per pound on auction floors, clean basis, by quality classification, weeks ended March 23, 1956, March 15, 1957, and March 22, 1957

Type and grade	Week ended			
	Year Ago 3-23-56		3-15-57	3-22-57
	<u>U.S. dollars</u>			
Combing wools:				
70's Good.....	1.31	:	1.67	: 1.65
Average.....	1.23	:	1.61	: 1.59
64's Good.....	1.14	:	1.52	: 1.50
Average.....	1.12	:	1.47	: 1.46
60's Good.....	1.01	:	1.38	: 1.38
Average.....	.99	:	1.34	: 1.33
58's Good.....	.91	:	1.28	: 1.27
Average.....	.89	:	1.22	: 1.21
56's Good.....	.85	:	1.17	: 1.16
Average.....	.83	:	1.13	: 1.12
50's Good.....	.77	:	1.02	: 1.01
Average.....	.76	:	.99	: .98
Carding wools:				
Merino.....	.80	:	.91	: .89
Comeback.....	.75	:	.84	: .82
Fine Crossbred.....	.70	:	.80	: .78
Medium Crossbred.....	.66	:	.78	: .77

Source: Wool Statistical Service, Australian Wool Bureau.

URUGUAYAN EXPORTS OF RAW WOOL AND TOPS DROP

Exports of raw wool during the first 5 months of the season (October-February) declined from 98,456 bales in 1955-56 to 70,891 bales in 1956-57. Shipments of tops declined from 23,058 bales to 22,000 bales.

Exports of raw wool to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were about the same as a year ago, but shipments to the United States and other countries declined sharply.

The decline in exports of raw wool reflects a drop in domestic production and smaller carry-in stocks at the beginning of the season. Exports last season were unduly large because the revision of exchange rates made it profitable for exporters to move their large carry-over stocks into trade channels.

With unusually high domestic prices, wool production should recover somewhat next season barring another extremely dry season.

U. K. BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS RISE

Imports of beef into the United Kingdom rose to 1,180 million pounds during 1956, an increase of 159 million over 1955. A rising standard of living and the re-entry of Argentina as an important source of chilled beef combined to bring about the increase. Because of increased domestic production, however, imports have not risen to the prewar level.

Trade since the end of World War II has been marked by the rapid recovery of chilled beef imports, which have risen from 9 million pounds in 1953 to 579 million in 1957. This is a return toward the prewar ratio of chilled beef to other beef imports, disrupted during the war, when no chilled beef was imported.

BEEF AND VEAL: United Kingdom imports, average 1937-39, annual
1953-56

Commodity	:Average : :1937-39 :	1953	: 1954 :	1955	: 1956
	:Mil. lbs.:	Mil.lbs.	:Mil.lbs.:	Mil.lbs.	:Mil.lbs.
Chilled beef and veal.....	934	: 9	: 43	: 268	: 579
Other, not canned.....	375	: 682	: 560	: 520	: 404
Canned.....	144	: 196	: 228	: 233	: 197
Total.....	1,453	: 887	: 831	: 1,021	: 1,180

U.K. CANNED MEAT IMPORTS DROP

Imports of canned meat into the United Kingdom dropped to 385 million pounds in 1956, a decline of 9 percent from 1955. Increased imports of carcass meat accounted for the drop in canned meat, imports of which have been more than double prewar levels for several years.

Shortages of fresh and chilled beef during World War II caused changes in consumption habits which have been reflected in the continued large imports of canned meat.

Argentina and Uruguay, the most important prewar sources of canned meat, have lost ground to Australia, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Ireland in the postwar period. Australia, although the most important supplier of the United Kingdom, has been sending steadily smaller shipments in recent years. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, March 11, 1957.)

MEAT CANNED, 1/: United Kingdom imports, average 1937-39,
annual 1953-56

Country	Average 1937-39	1953	1954	1955	1956
Million pounds					
Australia.....	10.1	133.0	122.1	113.1	96.3
Argentina.....	100.1	38.5	52.5	84.0	68.9
Netherlands.....	1.8	46.8	54.7	62.5	59.2
Denmark.....	5.2	46.8	48.2	58.2	55.4
Irish Republic.....	0.7	22.8	26.9	28.4	24.6
Uruguay.....	23.1	4.8	17.5	9.0	13.9
New Zealand.....	4.8	27.1	22.6	15.2	9.2
Others.....	38.0	54.7	55.8	51.4	58.1
	183.8	374.5	400.3	421.8	384.6

1/ Includes poultry and variety meats.

Source: Commonwealth Economic Committee

MEXICO BANS IMPORTS OF INEDIBLE TALLOW

The Mexican Collector of Customs announced on March 29, 1957, that all imports of inedible tallow into Mexico would be prohibited as of that date. The ban is believed to be temporary and may result from protests by Mexican copra producers.

In recent years Mexico has been one of the leading importers of the United States' inedible tallow, taking approximately 58 million pounds in 1956.

NEW ZEALAND WOOL PRICES RISE

Approximately 29,000 bales of wool were sold on March 22 at the Auckland, New Zealand, sale. The offering was mainly semi-skirted and showed some discoloration and cott.

Prices continued their firm upward trend, apparently unaffected by the slightly lower prices in Australian auctions during this period. Competition was widespread.

Prices for selected descriptions in cents per pound, greasy basis, are as follows:

Description	:	Type	:	Dunedin	:	Timaru	:	Auckland
				10/24/56		3/11/57		3/22/57
Extra Fine Crossbred.....	:	93 B 50/56's	:	64	:	75	:	76
Fine Crossbred.....	:	100 B 50's	:	62	:	69	:	69
Medium Crossbred.....	:	114 B 46/50's	:	62	:	67	:	68
Strong Crossbred.....	:	128 B 46/48's	:	61	:	65	:	67

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission

DANISH LARD EXPORTS DOWN IN 1956

Exports of lard from Denmark dropped from 34 million pounds in 1955 to 25 million pounds in 1956. This decline was due principally to a much smaller demand for Danish lard by East and West Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. Denmark's exports of lard to the United Kingdom were up about 10 percent as a result of effective sales promotion.

U.S. LARD EXPORTS IN 1956
INCREASED 9 PERCENT

United States exports of lard during 1956 totaled 612 million pounds, an increase of 50 million pounds, or 9 percent, above the total shipped in 1955.

Strong foreign demand for edible fats and oils in 1956 materially aided United States lard exports. In addition to a substantial increase in regular dollar sales brought about by the demand for high quality United States lard, the United States foreign aid program and Public Law 480 were also effective in increasing United States' foreign trade.

Cuba was the principal outlet for United States lard in 1956, followed closely by the United Kingdom. Other leading importers were Yugoslavia, West Germany, Austria, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Peru. These 10 countries accounted for over 92 percent of total lard exports, from the United States with Cuba and the United Kingdom taking about 53 percent.

LARD: U.S. exports, including rendered pork fat,
by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1954-56

Continent and country	Average 1935-39	1954	1955	1956 1/
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
North America:				
Canada	2,077	3,292	7,308	17,726
Costa Rica	1,186	7,028	8,208	5,300
Cuba	39,912	158,352	167,004	163,131
Dominican Republic	460	40	-	-
El Salvador	5	4,065	5,392	3,430
Guatemala	395	8,953	12,642	7,215
Haiti	645	5,899	6,360	5,107
Mexico	5,499	30,672	20,314	14,538
Netherlands Antilles ..	307	493	418	215
Canal Zone	157	682	1,018	941
Panama, Rep. of	1,033	9,498	3,238	4,067
Other	284	1,890	2,779	1,752
Total	51,960	230,371	234,681	223,422
South America:				
Brazil	1	4	6	10,417
Bolivia	15	4,994	6,829	7,159
Colombia	3,741	2,358	2,852	1,448
Ecuador	801	9,009	2,787	4
Peru	32	4,861	9,274	5,986
Venezuela	3,221	722	1,659	657
Other	13	132	91	1,703
Total	7,824	22,080	23,498	27,374
Europe:				
Austria	2/	18,478	21,378	26,807
Belgium & Luxembourg ..	2,460	70	233	711
Czechoslovakia	1,654	-	-	-
France	29	1,539	25	-
Germany, Western 3/ 2/ ..	2,536	49,583	68,689	70,099
Greece	1	-	12	24
Italy	707	129	289	167
Netherlands	330	14,294	19,204	4,303
Poland	39	-	661	-
Switzerland	218	2,216	293	386
United Kingdom	95,733	97,114	167,732	161,067
Yugoslavia	4	26,786	20,682	88,496
Other	1,937	353	899	457
Total	105,648	210,562	300,097	352,517
Soviet Union	4	-	-	-
Asia	36	2,383	3,768	3,404
Africa	158	-	20	44
Oceania	6	-	8	-
GRAND TOTAL	165,636	465,396	562,072	4/ 612,118

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Austria included with Germany. 3/ Prior to January, 1952. 4/ Includes a small quantity the final destination of which has not yet been designated.

Compiled from official records of the Department of Commerce.

CEYLON'S EXPORTS OF COPRA AND
COCONUT OIL DECREASE IN 1956

Ceylon's exports of copra and coconut oil in 1956 totaled 121,287 long tons, oil basis, a decrease of 14 percent from the record high of 140,288 tons exported in 1955.

Copra exports, at 57,726 long tons, were 16 percent less than exports in 1955 and moderately below prewar. India continued to be the major market, accounting for 97 percent of the total.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL: Ceylon, exports, average
1935-39, annual 1955 and 1956
(Long tons)

Country of destination	Copra			Coconut oil		
	Average: 1935-39	1955	1956 <u>1/</u>	Average: 1935-39	1955	1956 <u>1/</u>
Canada.....	-	-	-	8,523	15,200	15,260
West Indies.....	-	-	-	881	-	-
Denmark.....	1,605	-	-	35	-	-
France.....	354	-	-	347	200	-
Western Germany.....	<u>2/</u> 1,482	-	-	<u>2/</u> 1,200	4,217	4,617
Greece.....	1,526	-	-	120	-	-
Italy.....	6,541	2	-	1,724	23,690	19,257
Netherlands.....	-	-	-	-	12,860	10,037
Sweden.....	-	-	-	3,573	95	10
Switzerland.....	-	-	-	84	1,813	1,663
United Kingdom.....	420	-	4	14,160	10,572	11,736
Other Europe.....	4,573	-	1	5,913	395	-
China.....	-	-	-	<u>3/</u>	2,200	-
Cyprus.....	-	-	-	146	134	251
India.....	42,553	63,440	56,274	10,769	11,683	9,504
Iran.....	-	3	63	6	1,182	4,196
Iraq.....	20	774	279	315	173	750
Pakistan.....	-	3,915	331	-	5,600	2,757
Israel.....	-	-	-	15	-	5
Syria.....	60	-	-	164	34	101
Other Asia.....	360	215	774	2,400	2,482	479
Egypt.....	425	-	-	2,433	3,331	2,290
Union of South Africa.....	-	-	-	2,597	295	241
Other countries.....	8	4	-	3,608	1,070	1,766
Total.....	59,927	68,353	57,726	59,013	97,226	84,920

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ Less than .5 ton.

Compiled from official sources.

Coconut oil exports totaled 84,920 long tons, 13 percent below 1955 shipments, but roughly 45 percent above prewar. Exports to the United Kingdom, Western Germany, Iran, Iraq, and Canada were up, while sales to Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Pakistan, India, and Egypt decreased.

Exports of desiccated coconut increased from 57,913 tons in 1955 to 63,744 tons in 1956. Nearly 40 percent of the total went to the United Kingdom.

U.S. GRASS, LEGUME SEED EXPORTS UP 74 PERCENT

United States grass and legume seeds exports of 35.3 million pounds for July-through-February of the current crop year exceeded by 74 percent last year's shipments for the same period, which were 20.3 million pounds. This crop year's 8 months' total exceeds last year's 12-months' total by more than 4 million pounds. West Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, and Italy received the largest February shipments. Alfalfa shipments so far this year constitute 42 percent of total grass and legume exports.

GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS: U.S. exports, February 1957, with comparisons

Kind	February		July 1, 1955	July 1, 1956
	1956	1957	to Feb. 29, 1956	to Feb. 28, 1957
	1,000 pounds			
Alfalfa.....	2,600	3,064	10,936	14,815
Alsike.....	1/	0	58	573
Clovers, other.....	282	555	1,530	5,411
Fescue.....	2/	131	420	1,420
Kentucky bluegrass.....	78	38	449	831
Orchardgrass.....	2/	0	36	33
Redtop.....	12	123	473	575
Timothy.....	2/	33	555	2,001
Grasses, other.....	2,032	1,590	5,891	9,669
Total.....	5,004	5,534	20,348	35,328
1/ Included in "Other Clovers."	2/	Included in "Other Grasses."		

(Continued on following page)

SHARPLY REDUCED EXPORTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN DRIED FRUIT FORECAST

Dried fruit exports from the Union of South Africa during the 1956-57 season are now forecast as 3,850 short tons, or about one-half the previous season's total.

Sharp declines are forecast for exports of seeded raisins, prunes, and apricots. Dried prune exports, a substantial item in earlier years, will be negligible for 1956-57. Early-season frosts and rains cut prune and apricot production. Low exports forecast for seeded raisins are attributed to lack of carryover stocks and increased diversion of raisins to wineries. Exports of Thompson's seedless raisins, however, are expected to be larger than those of recent years.

Major export markets for South African dried fruit continue to be the United Kingdom, Finland, Denmark, Canada, and the Federal Republic of Germany. The current dried fruit marketing season has begun well with few or no stocks carried over from earlier seasons. Demand is fairly strong and prices have been satisfactory. The South African Dried Fruit Board is presently selling this year's output on a forward delivery basis.

FRUITS, DRIED: South Africa, exports, by types, 1954-55; estimate, 1955-56; forecast, 1956-57; year ending November 30

Type	1954-55	Estimate 1955-56	Forecast 1956-57
		Short tons	
Raisins.....	2,388	4,265	1,350
Currants.....	223	156	100
Sultanas.....	272	195	150
Thompson's seedless raisins	531	399	1,100
Total - Vine fruits.....	3,414	5,015	2,700
Apricots.....	384	547	280
Apples.....	3	6	6
Peaches.....	362	762	750
Pears.....	15	16	20
Prunes.....	1,242	1,427	100
Total - Tree fruits	2,006	2,758	1,156
Total - All fruits	5,420	7,773	3,856
Fruit salad.....	424	1,747	1,500

JAPAN IMPOSES IMPORT DUTY ON SOYBEAN MEAL

The Japanese Finance Ministry on March 1, 1957, notified the Custom Houses in regional areas to impose a 5-percent import duty on soybean meal effective April 1, 1957. A 10-percent tariff on soybeans, which for some years had been suspended, again became effective as of October 1, 1956. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, August 27, 1956.)

During calendar year 1956 Japan imported 7,665 short tons of soybean meal. Although no breakdown by source is available as yet, it is believed that the major portion of the meal came from the United States. In 1955, Japan imported 14,897 tons of soybean meal from the United States and 56 tons from India.

The current session of the Japanese Diet has been deliberating a bill to impose a 10-percent duty on peanuts for oil processing. The bill reportedly was almost certain to be approved by the Diet and become effective from April 1, 1957. On peanuts for edible purposes, a 10-percent import duty is imposed under the current tariff law. During calendar 1956 Japan imported 9,643 tons of shelled peanuts and 110 tons of peanuts in the shell. None were from the United States. Imports in 1955 came largely from Thailand, China, the Netherlands, and Indonesia.

SURINAM REDUCES IMPORT DUTIES ON EDIBLE OILS

Surinam's ad valorem import duties on edible vegetable oils were reduced sharply, effective February 26, 1957, from those set January 14, 1957. The earlier and new ad valorem duties are as follows:

	<u>January 14</u>	<u>February 26</u>
	--- Percent ---	
Soybean oil	15	6
Peanut oil (in containers in excess of 10 liters)	20	6
Other edible vegetable oils	20	6

The United States exported only 18 short tons of soybean oil to Surinam in 1956 and 78 tons in 1955. Cotton seed oil exports to that country were 22 tons in 1956 and virtually nothing in 1955. No other edible vegetable oil was exported to Surinam by the United States during 1955 and 1956, although a negligible quantity of shelled peanuts went there last year.

LIBERIA'S PALM PRODUCTION UP IN 1956;
KERNEL EXPORTS SLIGHTLY LARGER

Liberia's palm oil production in 1956 is estimated at about 45,400 short tons, roughly 4 percent larger than in 1955. Palm kernel production was an estimated 11,000 tons against 10,640 tons in 1955.

Palm oil is the staple fat in the diet of the Liberian people. Virtually all oil produced is now consumed domestically. Average daily per capita consumption is estimated at .25 pound, indicating a total annual consumption of around 146 million pounds. Palm oil for the domestic market is extracted from the pericarp of the palm fruit and is of low quality. It has a free fatty acid content of more than 10 percent. The low quality is caused by bacterial action resulting from inefficient methods of extracting the oil.

The Society for the Utilization of Vegetable Raw Materials (LIMPEX) is erecting a pilot palm oil press near Monrovia. The Society will extract oil only from the pericarp of the fruit and will export the kernels. Full capacity of the press will be only 250 long tons (280 short tons) per year, but it should demonstrate that palm oil of high grade can be produced in Liberia.

The Liberian Government is encouraging the improvement of palm oil production by distributing oil palm seedlings to farmers in some parts of the country. The Liberian Department of Agriculture reports: "Oil palm propagation is restricted only to the Nigerian and Angola varieties because of their high oil content, early maturity and easy accessibility of fruit during harvest."

Export of palm oil from Liberia has practically ceased; whereas in 1948 the value of palm oil exported was \$378,700, in 1956 it was only \$127. Palm kernels, on the other hand, which are not used in the domestic market in Liberia to any extent, are second in value of Liberia's agricultural exports. Exports in 1956 totaled 11,000 tons compared with 10,610 tons in 1955. The oil from the palm kernel is used in the manufacture of soaps, margarine, and hard cooking fats in countries where suitable facilities exist for processing. The Netherlands and West Germany are the principal markets for palm kernels from Liberia. Most of the oil palms in Liberia are low yielding and the bunches are produced high above ground. Labor used to harvest the crop and crack out the kernels is not well paid. When the newly-planted varieties come into production the volume and quality of Liberia's exports of palm oil and palm kernels should improve.

BURMA'S PEANUT PRODUCTION
DOWN; SESAME OUTPUT UP

Peanut production in Burma was estimated at 208,992 short tons, unshelled, for the 1956-57 crop, nearly 10 percent less than the 229,824 tons produced the previous year. About 151,000 tons were crushed to produce 38,000 tons of peanut oil.

Sesame seed production, estimated at 61,600 tons for the 1956-57 crop, was up 20 percent from the 49,280 tons produced in 1955-56.

Oilseeds and oil are not exported by Burma, and imports are necessary to meet domestic requirements. Peanut oil from India is the most important import, followed by coconut oil from Malaya. About 55 percent of total vegetable oil imports during the first 6 months of 1956 was peanut oil from India, and about 17 percent of the total imports was coconut oil from Malaya. A total of 26,037 tons of coconut oil and 88,369 tons of peanut oil were imported from January through June, 1956.

Burma exports substantial quantities of oilseed cake, mainly to the United Kingdom. During the first 6 months of 1956, 26,326 tons of peanut oilcake were exported, of which 24,931 tons went to the United Kingdom. Sesame oilcake exports amounted to 3,348 tons, and cottonseed cake exports were 3,400 tons from January to May, 1956.

"BIG 9" COMMODITIES COMPRISE 95 PERCENT
OF JAPANESE IMPORTS FROM U.S.

Nine agricultural products made up 95 percent of Japan's imports from the United States in 1956. They were: wheat, rice, barley, corn, tobacco, hides and skins, soybeans, raw cotton, and tallow.

Preliminary data show that imports of these commodities from all sources in 1956 were valued at \$958 million, up 1.5 percent from the 1951-55 average. The United States' share, excluding tobacco, for which information is not yet available, was \$378 million, a decline of 6.9 percent from the 1951-55 average, also excluding tobacco.

The United States supplied 43.6 percent of Japan's total imports of the "big 9" commodities during 1951-55; 43.3 percent in 1954; 41.6 percent in 1955; and between 39.4 percent and 40.3 percent in 1956, depending on the proportion of tobacco imports that came from the United States.

JAPAN: Agricultural imports from United States and total imports,
average 1951-55, 1955, and 1956

QUANTITY						
Commodity	Average		1955		1956	
	1951-55					
	Total	From U.S.	Total	From U.S.	Total	From U.S.
1,000 metric tons						
Wheat.....	1,895:	1,114:	2,287:	1,154:	2,227:	1,080
Rice.....	1,107:	216:	1,246:	243:	760:	20
Barley.....	775:	335:	576:	326:	922:	399
Corn.....	169:	107:	343:	199:	345:	135
Tobacco.....	8:	4:	10:	6:	6:	1/
Hides and skins.....	49:	28:	62:	45:	76:	50
Soybeans.....	448:	376:	808:	572:	717:	536
Cotton, raw 2/	2,042:	809:	2,025:	654:	2,761:	979
Tallow.....	82:	76:	117:	98:	106:	95
VALUE						
Commodity	Average		1955		1956	
	1951-55					
	Total	From U.S.	Total	From U.S.	Total	From U.S.
Million dollars						
Wheat.....	158:	96:	167:	83:	165:	76
Rice.....	193:	42:	197:	42:	108:	3
Barley.....	63:	26:	40:	21:	62:	27
Corn.....	13:	9:	26:	15:	26:	10
Tobacco.....	9:	6:	13:	11:	8:	1/
Hides and skins.....	27:	14:	22:	16:	31:	19
Soybeans.....	58:	48:	98:	67:	85:	62
Cotton, raw.....	406:	156:	362:	121:	451:	160
Tallow.....	17:	16:	25:	21:	22:	20
Total 3/	944:	412:	951:	396:	958:	1/
Total, excluding tobacco 3/	936:	406:	938:	385:	950:	378

1/ Tobacco imports by source not yet available for 1956. 2/ 1,000 bales of 480 pounds net. 3/ Computed from unrounded data.

ETHIOPIA PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CASTOR BEANS

Castor bean production in Ethiopia is estimated roughly at 7,000 to 10,000 short tons, much of which is never harvested. The local market for castor beans is negligible and there is no commercial crushing. Around 5,000 to 6,000 tons of beans have been exported in recent years. A 2 per-cent ad valorem duty is levied on exports.

Castor beans apparently are indigenous to Ethiopia. Large perennial plants grow wild in forests and semi-arid areas. The proportion of the total planted acreage is not known but is believed to be increasing. Where plantings have been made, native perennial types have been used with little or no cultivation. Some experiments are being made with imported dwarf varieties, but there have been no conclusive results. There are no commercial irrigated plantings. Whether opportunities exist for expanding commercial production is not yet clear.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS CONTINUE HEAVY VOLUME

United States cotton exports (all types) in February 1957 amounted to 840,000 bales of 500 pounds gross, to continue the heavy volume registered thus far for the 1956-57 season. The current figure represents a 3 per-cent increase over January exports of 819,000 bales, and is more than 8 times as large as exports of 104,000 bales in February 1956.

Exports during August-February 1956-57 amounted to 4,776,000 bales, or more than 5 times the 840,000 bales exported during the first 7 months of the 1955-56 season. Volume to nearly all countries was the heaviest in many years. Exports to Japan so far this season are nearing 1 million bales; those to West Germany and the United Kingdom are well above the 600,000-bale mark.

Sales by the Commodity Credit Corporation through April 2, 1957, for export under the 1956-57 program amounted to 7,282,000 bales. Sales for export under the 1957-58 program now total 1,014,000 bales. Sales under the two programs will operate simultaneously during the remainder of the current season. Shipments under the 1956-57 program must be completed by August 15, 1957. Those under the 1957-58 program will not be permitted until after that date.

The average price of cotton sold by bids opened April 2, basis Middling one inch, at average location, was 27.58 cents per pound under the 1956-57 program, and 27.31 cents under the 1957-58 program.

Total United States cotton exports during the 1956-57 season are expected to exceed 7 million bales.

COTTON: U. S. exports by country of destination,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1954 and 1955, and
August-February 1955-56 and 1956-57

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)						
Country of destination	Year beginning August 1			August-February		
	Average		1954	1955	1956-56	1956-57
	1935-39	1945-49				
	- - - - -1,000 bales - - - -					
Austria.....	0	1/ 36	15	18	6	29
Belgium.....	169	131	66	30	3	221
Denmark.....	33	14	21	3	0	16
Finland.....	35	21	13	16	15	28
France.....	662	575	416	178	71	266
Germany, West.....	511	340	350	74	33	663
Italy.....	442	489	249	105	30	395
Netherlands.....	107	131	95	17	3	193
Norway.....	17	7	12	2/	0	12
Portugal.....	36	2/	11	5	0	55
Spain.....	108	69	197	143	85	160
Sweden.....	115	12	51	10	2	72
Switzerland.....	11	26	37	14	8	98
United Kingdom.....	1,346	488	421	153	45	651
Yugoslavia.....	17	47	103	109	1	13
Other Europe.....	3/ 276	4/ 159	9	6	2	14
Total Europe.....	3,885	2,545	2,066	881	304	2,886
Canada.....	301	275	307	75	41	230
Cuba.....	11	16	19	11	3	20
Israel.....	5/	5	20	15	4	6
Hong Kong.....	5/	35	6	45	2/	45
India.....	52	86	61	9	4	237
Indonesia.....	5/	5	27	15	8	22
Korea, Rep. of.....	5/	6/ 48	170	135	59	138
Japan.....	1,142	585	678	873	342	924
Philippines, Rep. of.....	2	4	8	12	7	24
Taiwan (Formosa).....	5/	1	120	124	59	76
Bolivia.....	4	2	5	13	4	2/
Chile.....	9	20	10	14	4	45
Colombia.....	20	24	2	27	9	26
French N. Africa.....	5/	4	12	6	2	7
Australia.....	9	7	52	28	10	43
Other countries.....	7/ 154	8/ 403	22	37	23	48
Total 500-lb. bales.....	5,589	4,065	3,585	2,320	883	4,777

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Poland 180, and
Czechoslovakia 65. 4/ Includes Poland 69, Czechoslovakia 57, and Greece 21.
5/ If any, included in other countries. 6/ 3-year average. 7/ Includes China
117 and French Indochina 22. 8/ Includes China 401.

U. S. EXPORTS OF AMERICAN EGYPTIAN COTTON DROP IN FEBRUARY

United States exports of American Egyptian cotton amounted to 4,330 bales (500 pounds gross) in February 1957, declining 40 percent from January exports of 7,319 bales, but sharply above exports of 144 bales in February 1956. Exports during August-February 1956-57 amounted to 47,425 bales, compared with only 3,467 bales during August-February 1955-56.

Principal destinations of American Egyptian cotton exports this season have been Spain and the United Kingdom, with smaller quantities to France, Japan, and Italy. Volume to all countries thus far, with the exception of Pakistan, has exceeded total 1955-56 season exports.

All exports of American Egyptian cotton move at free market prices. This cotton is not included in the special competitive-bid export programs involving stocks of the Commodity Credit Corporation, and is not available under Public Law 480, or foreign aid programs operated by the International Cooperation Administration.

COTTON: U. S. exports of American Egyptian cotton by
country of destination, annual 1954- and 1955,
August-February 1955-56 and 1956-57

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)					
Country of destination :	Year beginning		August-February		
	August 1				
	1954	1955	1955-56	1956-57	
Austria.....	0	0	0	778	
Belgium.....	0	0	0	159	
France.....	103	640	0	4,750	
Germany, West.....	0	169	0	131	
Ireland.....	0	0	0	105	
Italy.....	0	233	0	3,610	
Netherlands.....	0	0	0	34	
Portugal.....	0	0	0	634	
Spain.....	0	15,002	0	15,539	
Sweden.....	0	3	0	211	
Switzerland.....	1,153	272	0	750	
Trieste.....	0	0	0	369	
United Kingdom.....	93	96	0	14,827	
Yugoslavia.....	0	1,315	0	398	
Israel.....	66	1/	0	0	
India.....	0	603	311	531	
Japan.....	0	21	0	4,545	
Pakistan.....	0	3,156	3,156	0	
Colombia.....	0	0	0	51	
Other countries.....	0	45	0	3	
Total.....	1,415	21,555	3,467	47,425	

1/ Less than 1 bale.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

SUDAN INCREASES PRICES OF SAKEL-TYPE COTTON

The Sudan Gezira Board has announced an increase in reserve prices for Sakel-type cotton from the 1956-57 crop. The announcement was made before the new-crop auctions began in Khartoum on March 14 and is effective for Sakel types only. Auctions began in Port Sudan March 23. No price change has been announced for American upland-type cotton which amounts to from 10 to 15 percent of the total crop.

The increase in the reserve prices--the prices below which the cotton will be stored rather than sold--as well as the previously announced increase in the cotton export tax, will increase the cost of the Sudanese cotton about 25 percent. Prices announced for the best qualities of Sakel are: Type GS, £26 per kantar (75.60 cents a pound); Type XG2S, £25.6 (74.44 cents); Type G2S, £25 (72.69 cents). These prices average £5.5 (15.99 cents) above reserve prices a year ago. The export tax was increased to £3 per kantar (8.72 cents per pound) from £2 (5.82 cents) last year. Export taxes are not included in the above prices.

TURKEY'S COTTON EXPORTS UP FROM LAST YEAR

Cotton exports from Turkey of 58,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during August-December 1956, were up 23 percent from the low volume of 47,000 bales exported in the same period of 1955; they were 16 percent higher than exports of 50,000 bales in August-December 1954. The low level of cotton exports these last 3 years, compared with preceding years, is attributed to increasing domestic consumption without an increase in production. As a result the supply of cotton available for export has been reduced.

Prices of Turkish cotton have remained above the world market in recent years because of declining supplies for export, bilateral trade arrangements involving cotton with several West European countries, and some barter of cotton to countries in Eastern Europe. As a result of the new export subsidy, however, Turkish prices are now below most other comparable qualities, including United States cotton.

A direct export subsidy of 35 percent was authorized by the Government of Turkey in October 1956 for cotton from the 1956-57 crop. The subsidy is paid on f.o.b. net value of the cotton and is administered by the Izmir and Adana Cooperatives. The government absorbs the losses incurred when cotton for export is sold below the prices paid to growers by the Cooperatives. The Cooperatives have handled practically all cotton exports since the inauguration of the subsidy.

Increased exports to Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, and India marked the current period, in contrast to reduced quantities to France and several Eastern European countries. Quantities exported in August-December 1956, with comparable 1955 figures in parentheses, were: Italy 21,000 bales (7,000); West Germany 16,000 (4,000); France 5,000 (13,000); United Kingdom 5,000 (none); India 4,000 (none); Sweden 3,000 (none); Israel 3,000 (3,000); East Germany none (5,000); Yugoslavia none (4,000); Netherlands none (3,000) and Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania, none (2,000 each).

Total exports, August-January 1956-57, amounted to 81,000 bales, compared with 63,000 a year earlier, but quantities exported by country of destination were not yet available. Sales agreements already completed with France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and West Germany would account for about 200,000 bales from the 1956-57 crop, although heavy local demands may reduce the quantity available for export below this level.

Turkey's cotton production in 1956-57 was estimated at 600,000 bales, the same as last year, but slightly below the 5-year average 1950-54 production of 624,000 bales. Cotton acreage for 1956-57 was estimated at 1,500,000 acres, down slightly from 1,520,000 acres in 1955-56, but somewhat higher than the 1950-54 average of 1,458,000 acres. Production in the Izmir area was down about 45,000 bales this year, while the Adana area was up by that amount. Some damage to grade and staple length was reported as the result of unfavorable weather conditions.

Cotton consumption in Turkey has increased rapidly in recent years, amounting to 460,000 bales in 1955-56 as compared with 230,000 in 1952-53. Further increases are expected to result from strong domestic demand and construction of new mill capacity. Consumption in 1956-57 may rise to 500,000 bales if the qualities desired by the mills are available. These figures on total cotton consumption include about 45,000 bales annually for nonmill use in bedding, padding, and other domestic purposes.

The Turkish Government recently surveyed the number of spindles and looms in operation, as well as cotton used, in the calendar years 1955 and 1956. The survey, covering all cotton mills, showed:

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Number of spindles, total	838,390	1,111,247
Government owned	314,303	314,303
Privately owned	524,087	796,944
Number of looms, total	14,734	19,532
Government owned	4,301	4,301
Privately owned	10,433	15,231
Mill consumption (bales)	364,000	472,000

Internal cotton prices in Turkey are considerably higher than competitive prices on world markets. They increased sharply following the announcement of the export subsidy in October, but have declined somewhat since, and by late March were only slightly higher than in September. Spot cotton quotations at Izmir and Adana in recent months were:

COTTON: Turkey, spot quotations at Izmir and Adana markets,
converted to U. S. cents per pound, specified dates,
September 1956 - March 1957

Date	Izmir		Adana
	Acala I	Acala II	Acala I
1956:	:	:	:
September 28.....	47.47	42.93	43.74
November 16.....	52.65	51.03	46.66
December 21.....	50.22	46.98	46.98
1957:	:	:	:
January 24.....	50.22	45.85	46.17
February 28.....	48.92	44.55	45.68
March 28.....	49.09	44.87	45.85

Source: Commercial Exchanges of Izmir and Adana.

Cotton stocks in Turkey on August 1, 1956, were estimated at 148,000 bales, practically the same as the 150,000 bales held a year earlier. Midseason stocks, including only cotton ginned to date, were reported at 346,000 bales on January 31, 1957, compared with 352,000 bales a year earlier.

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN COTTON DECLINE IN JANUARY

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports totaled 91,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in January 1957, 8 percent less than transshipments of 99,000 bales in December, and 41 percent below the 128,000 bales in January 1956. Transshipments for the 6-month period, August-January 1956-57, amounted to 695,000 bales, 10 percent less than the 775,000 bales transshipped in the corresponding period of 1955-56. The decline may be attributed mainly to the fact that the 1956-57 crop was nearly 500,000 bales smaller than that of a year ago.

Increased quantities exported to Japan and France in the current period were more than offset by decreased amounts to most Western European countries. Quantities transshipped to principal destinations in August-January 1956-57, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: Japan 226,000 bales (125,000); West Germany 115,000 (181,000); United Kingdom 75,000 (117,000); France 64,000 (15,000); Belgium 55,000 (75,000); Netherlands 52,000 (89,000); Sweden 24,000 (47,000); Italy 24,000 (37,000); Australia 16,000 (18,000); and Switzerland 15,000 (20,000).

SPANISH TABLE OLIVE PRODUCTION UP

The 1956 table olive pack in Spain is estimated at 36,500 short tons. Though well below the 5-year average of 47,300 tons for 1949-53, this estimate is 50 percent larger than the short 1955 crop of 24,300 tons.

The 1956 harvest was adversely affected by the February 1956 freezes which caused some tree damage. In addition, the "almendrilla" ("little almond") disease caused premature dropping of the fruit in some areas.

Fruit harvested in 1956 was, however, of exceptionally fine quality. There was practically no olive fly damage reported, in contrast to 1955's heavy fly damage that resulted in poor quality olives. Spanish trade officials therefore forecast that 90 percent of the 1956 crop will meet export standards.

Rains in January and February 1957 throughout olive-producing areas broke the drought which began in September. Trees have recovered from the 1956 freeze, and a normal crop is possible in 1957.

Although the 1956 crop is much larger than that in 1955, supplies will probably be inadequate for the export demand, and at season's close there should be no carryout of exportable pickled olives. As a result of limited supply, coupled with strong demand, the market has been bullish and export prices are averaging \$8.00 to \$10.00 per "fanega" (50 cents to 62½ cents per gallon) higher than the official minimum export prices established by the Spanish Government.

Minimum export prices for 1956-57, about the same as in 1955-56, are:

Type	Price	
	Per "fanega" ^{1/}	Per gallon
	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
Gordal, regular.....	21.00	1.31
" stuffed.....	31.00	1.94
Manzanilla, regular.....	30.00	1.88
" stuffed.....	32.00	2.00

^{1/} One "fanega" equals 97 pounds or 16 gallons.

IRELAND TO REMOVE SPECIAL
IMPORT LEVY ON ORANGES

Ireland has announced that it intends to remove the special 37.5 percent import levy on oranges imposed in July 1956.

Irish imports of all types of citrus from the United States had sharply increased prior to imposition of the levy. The increased duty, however, curtailed the trade and the measure was criticized in Ireland as pricing citrus out of reach of ordinary consumers.

During the first 6 months of 1956, Ireland imported more United States oranges than during all of 1955. Purchases of United States grapefruit tripled during this period, and imports of lemons from the United States more than doubled. The Irish Government has now decided to revoke the levy on oranges as not justified. Operation of the remaining levies will be examined periodically and the levies will be reduced or removed when circumstances permit.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

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Circular FT 11.

Status of Cotton Purchase Authorizations Under Title I, Public Law 480.
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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